Chapter 26

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Chapter 21

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Finally the Syrian Mission of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church of North America established the American Junior College for Women in 1924. Its buildings were erected not far from the site of the American University of Beirut on the promontory known as Ras Beirut.

After World War I, with the growth of French schools, the establishment of many native schools, and the demand for French education which could secure entry to government jobs, American schools in the villages, though not in the larger cities, began to dwindle. In 1945–46 they numbered only 16, enrolling 1,302 pupils. Almost all the village schools have been transferred since 1919 from the Mission to the Evangelical Synod of Syria. The Mission contributes only a small sum toward their maintenance. Two of the well-known Mission secondary schools for boys, those at Suq al-Gharb and Shemlan, have been closed. The village elementary schools are now under the control of the education committee of the Syrian Evangelical Synod, although the government permits for their operation are still in the name of the Presbyterian Mission. Education was formerly provided by them free of charge, but financial stringency has created that small fees be charged the students. In many places they are under the direction of the Protestant ministers, and provide partial support for him. In other places they are conducted by one or more teachers. They are almost all coeducational. The two or three that were visited by the American Council Commission left much to be desired, although in one place the girls and boys seemed to be quite advanced in both Arabic and English.

The main educational work of the American Mission in Lebanon as distinct from the American University of Beirut is carried on in its boarding secondary schools which usually include elementary grades as well. These comprise girls' schools in each of Beirut, Tripoli, and Sidon, and schools for boys in the last two cities. These occupy well-built and generally well-lighted buildings. They are usually well supplied with libraries as well as with other equipment. All 5 schools were visited by the Commission of the American Council on Education. At the time of the visit each of the schools had an American principal and a few American teachers while the rest of the staff were Syrian and Lebanese. For the higher classes they are generally, although not always, graduates of the American University of Beirut, while for the lower classes they are the products of the American high schools, or individuals who have not finished their college work at the University. Almost all the American members of the staff are college or university graduates.

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varities of tuberculosis, assists in the hospitalization of needy cases and administers a sanatorium at Dahr el Baidar. The Armenian Charitable Society furnishes treatment facilities for the cure of Armenian patients. The Young Women's Moslem Association was established for the promotion of education among Moslem women, and since 1948 it has maintained a training school for nurses in Beirut. The Mouassat Society, an organization of Moslem women interested in infant welfare work, finances a small community hospital in Beirut.

The medical schools of the American University of Beirut and the University Saint-Joseph have affiliated medical clinic and preventive services. The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in America supports a medical mission in Tripoli. The Near East Foundation directed a general health and rural improvement program in the Anjar villages in the Bekaa valley from 1944 to 1951, when it retired from Lebanon. It also instituted an extensive malaria control project in the Anjar and the Amioh swamp areas. The Kevorkian Corporation, in America, contributed substantially to the work of the Foundation in the Armenian villages, and provides for the maintenance of child welfare centers in Anjar and Beirut.

The Lebanese Public Health Association is prominent among the professional circles. It is concerned with the promotion of public health in Lebanon and with the dissemination of educational materials. The Lebanese Medical Association is likewise active, and publishes a journal for its membership.

Two industries maintain medical facilities for the benefit of their employees—the Iraq Petroleum Company, at Tripoli, and the Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company, at Beirut and Sidon. The Iraq Petroleum Company also subsidizes a medical insurance scheme for the families of its employees. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees carries on public health programs in the various camps

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